

S E C R E T

14 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office Directors and National Intelligence Officers
Attending the DDCI/NIO Meeting at 1100, 15 March

FROM : Presidential Briefing Coordinator

Brazil's view of the world will be the subject of the meeting. We would like to approach the problem through a consideration of the Brazilians' perceptions of their own national security interests. The framework for the discussion is set forth in the attached paper.



Attachment

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How Brazil Sees the World

We would like to consider the issue of national security as seen by Brazilian leaders, in contrast to what is seen by the United States.

The leadership view is very much a product of the thinking of the Brazilian National War College.

The NWC teaches that the major obstacles to achieving Brazilian national security and, in turn, Brazilian destiny are:

- insurgency
- corruption
- inefficiency

Much of this is a transliteration into the Brazilian context with consequent distortion of thinking learned in US military senior schools.

It follows from this view that the growth of national power takes precedence over fostering individual liberty.

This view also provides these leaders a justification for the Army's primacy in Brazil.

The military sees its mission as the repression of insurgency, corruption and inefficiency, and raising Brazil to meet its destiny. In this context many actions make sense to Brazilian leaders, but not to the US; e.g.,

- only nuclear energy is seen as providing the power needed to support the achievement of greatness by the year 2000.
- the challenges from the bishops and students are seen as threats to Brazil's destiny.